**Ode to Jim Sippel**

I’m sorry I can’t be there

To celebrate with you.

I’ve got another place to be

So I can’t bid, “Adieu.”

So long, my friend,

It’s been so grand

And now that you have time

You’ll sit and strum on your guitar

And join a rock ‘n roll band.

And next year when the school bell rings

There’s one thing I won’t see

Is Sippel in the LRC, saying,

“Will you watch my class for me?”

My second year at old Traughber, we were the pilot school for MAP testing. There wasn’t much for teachers to do and we only had two computer labs back then (right next door to each other). Since the labs had no doors, no classes could be in the LRC. Terri Orr, my assistant at the time, and myself were on call in case the computers went down. Jim saw this as an opportunity to head back to his classroom and make a quick phone call to reach a parent during the day. So he says, “Will you watch my class for me? I’ll be right back.” He comes back thirty minutes later, apologizing profusely for his long absence. Another time, his class was typing an essay from their drafts, and not much help was needed on his part, and he needed to make another call. He said, “Will you watch my class for me? I’ll be right back.” He comes back twenty minutes later, apologizing again for his absence. This happened a few times that year, mostly during MAP testing. Not one to say, “No, I would cringe every time he would ask me, because I knew I was always in for at least a 20-minute stint!